

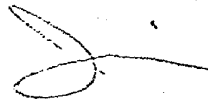
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

February 26, 1973

PERSONAL MEMORANDUM FOR DR. HENRY KISSINGER

You asked for an estimate regarding just where the Soviets may be going with their strategic force development programs. The attached paper deals with that question. I trust that it is responsive to your needs. We have tried to keep it brief; let me know if you want further amplification.



James R. Schlesinger

Attachment:

"Forces Shaping the Soviet Strategic
Weapons Development Program"

DCI

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Forces Shaping the Soviet Strategic Weapons Development Program

The ongoing Soviet strategic forces development program raises the question "what do the Soviets have in mind for this program and where do they intend to go?" The breadth and pace of their effort in offensive and defensive system development is impressive in comparison to the current US development program and includes:

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- * A possible mobile ICBM test program.
- * Possible development of MIRV's.

What forces are shaping this effort? This is a complicated problem and probably involves at least some of the following Soviet motivations:

- * A search for strategic dominance over the US.
- * A desire to reduce the technological gap.
- * A fear of China and the need to impress China with Soviet strategic superiority.
- * Bureaucratic momentum in their military and design organizations.
- * Providing bargaining chips in arms control negotiations.
- * A shift of emphasis from production and deployment to broader efforts in R&D.

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Remarks: <i>Excellent - Some further "forces shaping this effort" however are such things as -</i> <i>Competition for the resources involved, eg conventional force strengthening, consumer requirements</i> <i>Their appreciation of US & other reaction to this</i>					
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<i>likely impact of this effort</i>					
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MBFR, NATO, US-
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